

## CHAPTER 25

### DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE — PERSONAL DEGRADATION

H.F. 544

**AN ACT** including personal degradation as a form of dependent adult abuse by caretakers in facilities and programs regulated by the department of inspections and appeals, and including effective date provisions.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section 235E.1, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code 2017, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

**NEW SUBPARAGRAPH.** (3) Personal degradation of a dependent adult. “*Personal degradation*” means a willful act or statement by a caretaker intended to shame, degrade, humiliate, or otherwise harm the personal dignity of a dependent adult, or where the caretaker knew or reasonably should have known the act or statement would cause shame, degradation, humiliation, or harm to the personal dignity of a reasonable person. “*Personal degradation*” includes the taking, transmission, or display of an electronic image of a dependent adult by a caretaker, where the caretaker’s actions constitute a willful act or statement intended to shame, degrade, humiliate, or otherwise harm the personal dignity of the dependent adult, or where the caretaker knew or reasonably should have known the act would cause shame, degradation, humiliation, or harm to the personal dignity of a reasonable person. “*Personal degradation*” does not include the taking, transmission, or display of an electronic image of a dependent adult for the purpose of reporting dependent adult abuse to law enforcement, the department, or other regulatory agency that oversees caretakers or enforces abuse or neglect provisions, or for the purpose of treatment or diagnosis or as part of an ongoing investigation. “*Personal degradation*” also does not include the taking, transmission, or display of an electronic image by a caretaker in accordance with the facility’s or program’s confidentiality policy and release of information or consent policies.

Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Approved March 30, 2017